



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Panamá railway route, from whose managers he (the Bishop) had ever received much personal kindness and attention.

Admiral OMMANNEY said he was stationed off the coast of Central America in command of H.M.S. *Brunswick*, 80 guns, for five months, most of that time lying off Colon, and could confirm all that the Bishop had just said as to the salubrity of Colon and the advantages of the Panamá railway. The climate of that locality when the railway was first commenced was in bad repute; since then it had improved, owing to the clearance of timber and vegetation along a belt of country on each side of the line, through the dense virgin forest which covers the Isthmus: the prevailing wind which blows from the N.E. direct from the sea over Colon renders that place healthy. His ship's company, consisting of upwards of 800 persons, enjoyed good health; he had the satisfaction to leave the station without the loss of a man by death from the climate. The present survey of Nicaragua, with regard to opening out an access into that country, was a good work accomplished, and reflected very great credit on those who had conquered the difficulties and privations; any work tending to develop the natural sources of wealth in Central America was a benefit to mankind. The proposed line as a means of interoceanic communication between the Atlantic and Pacific would be of little value unless there were good ports at each terminus capable of receiving the largest passenger ships: on this point he was sceptical. He had visited the Mosquito coast, and feared that no harbour existed at Monkey Point suitable for the object. He considered it a dangerous coast and subject to boisterous weather; he was once caught off Monkey Point on a lee-shore with a heavy gale, in a line-of-battle-ship; had difficulty to work off under storm-sails, aided by steam-power, against the heavy sea rolling along the coast. The advantage of the short transit by the existing Panamá line, which has good towns at each terminus, would command the preference for passengers to the more lengthened route by the proposed scheme.

Mr. COLLINSON, in reply, adverted only to one point—the harbour at Monkey Point. He had had considerable experience of that harbour as to shelter: In 1863, in one of the most violent northers on that coast, he was for three days, in that harbour, in one of the Royal Mail steamers, and was completely sheltered. On the contrary, at Colon, during one of these northers, the Royal Mail steamer *Avon* was blown right on shore against the landing stage, which was entirely destroyed. She could not get out with full steam on.

The meeting then adjourned.

*Third Meeting, December 9th, 1867.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Rev. A. Raleigh, D.D.*; *Edward Spicer, Esq.*; *J. H. Tritton, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*Frederick Shirley de Carteret Bisson, Esq.* (Lieut. R.I. Militia); *James Chapman, Esq.*; *Andrew Halley Knight, Esq.*; *William McArthur, Esq.*; *Hon. John McLean, Esq.*; *Richard Ramsden, Esq.*, B.A. Trin. Coll., Cambridge.

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY, from NOVEMBER 25TH to DECEMBER 9TH.  
—‘*Voyage sur le Coté Orientale de la Mer Rouge dans le pays*

d'Adal et le Royaume de Choa,' par C. G. K. Rochet d'Héricourt, 1841. Purchased. 'Travels in Nubia, Egypt, Holy Land, Mount Lebanon, and Cyprus, in the year 1814,' by Henry Light, 1818. Purchased. 'Question d'Abyssinie au Peuple de la Grande Bretagne,' par J. Cozzika: Constantinople, 1867. Presented by the Author. 'General History of the Turkes,' etc., by Richard Knolles, 1603. Purchased. 'Voyages dans l'Inde par le Prince Alexis Soltykoff,' Paris. Purchased. 'The Birds of South Africa,' a descriptive catalogue of, by Edgar L. Layard: Cape Town, 1867. Presented by G. Frere, Esq. 'Climate and Meteorology (Physical and Medical) of the West Coast of Africa, with Hints to Europeans for the preservation of Health in the Tropics,' by James Africanus B. Horton, Esq., M.D., 1867. Presented by the Author. 'The Itineraries of William Wey, Fellow of Eton College, to Jerusalem, A.D. 1458 and 1462; and to St. James of Compostella, A.D. 1456,' from the original MS. in the Bodleian Library, 2 vols. Presented by the Earl of Powis. 'South Atlantic Ocean: a Sailing Directory for the Ethiopic or South Atlantic Ocean, including the Coast of South Africa,' 5th edition, by A. G. Findlay, Esq. Presented by the Author. 'The Art of Travel; or Shifts and Contrivances available in Wild Countries,' by Francis Galton, Esq. 3rd edition. Presented by the Author. A small Miniature in marble, by Taffe, of John Pinkerton, Geographer, dated 1798. Presented by J. W. Lowry, Esq.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING, NOV. 25TH.—Switzerland: Eastern part of the Canton of Grisons, showing the Glaciers of the Lower Engadine, on 2 sheets, by J. M. Ziegler, Corresponding Member. Presented by the Author. Ditto: a Geological Map, by M. B. Studer and A. Escher, on 4 sheets. Compiled and presented by J. M. Ziegler. Ancient Map of Egypt, Nubia, and Abyssinia, and Sources of the Nile, from Sebastian Munster, 1550. Presented by Dr. T. Murie. Atlases:—A Pictorial Atlas of the Victoria Falls, Zambesi River, sketched on the spot by T. Baines, Esq., containing 11 chromo-lithographic engravings; also 44 photographs of South African scenery. Presented by the Author.—Hydrographical Atlas of the Rio das Velhas, a tributary of the Rio San Francisco, South America. Purchased.—The Handy Royal Atlas, by A. K. Johnston. Presented by the Author.—Missionary Atlas of South Africa, by Dr. R. Grundemann. Presented by the Author.

The PRESIDENT announced that since the last meeting he had received letters of the most satisfactory description respecting the "white traveller" seen in the interior of Africa, whom many persons, himself included, were disposed to think could be no other than Dr. Livingstone. The letters were, in his opinion, singularly corroborative of the hopes which the former tidings had excited. It would be remembered that the news of a white man in the inte-

rior was communicated to Dr. Kirk at Zanzibar by a native who had served in a trader's caravan, and who had stated that the leader of the caravan, and other men belonging to it, were at Bagamoyo on the mainland, where they might be seen and questioned on the subject. Since then Dr. Kirk and Mr. Churchill had been to Bagamoyo and seen these men, and the result was communicated in these letters. The first letter was from Mrs. Kirk to himself :—

“Zanzibar, Oct. 11, 1867.

“The white traveller, concerning whom Dr. Kirk wrote to you on the 28th of last month, according to further accounts, stayed five days at the village where the caravan was, and then went on to the next chief. The white man was of moderate height, not stout, wore a white coat and trousers, and a black cloth cap, round which he sometimes wrapped a white cloth. He gave the chief a looking-glass, eight yards of flannel, and a tin box. He went on northwards. He gave a letter to Bunduki, the leader of another caravan, which is expected on the coast in a month. He had a compass and other instruments which he used at night. He could converse in Suaheli, but did so imperfectly, and with the Nyassa idiom, ‘like Dr. Kirk.’ He had a beard; three of his party carried boxes, four had bags of beads, the others miscellaneous articles. This is all the information we have, and Dr. Kirk wishes me to tell you he has hardly any doubt at all that it is indeed Dr. Livingstone. If it is not, who can it be? There is no other white man in the interior that we know of, and a Portuguese from the west would not speak Suaheli. There is also a rumour that a white man has been seen in the country of Uruwa, west of Ujiji, but as yet we have not been able to trace the report. It was heard casually mentioned in a conversation between two natives. Dr. Kirk sent a large parcel of guns, letters and other things to Ujiji to meet Dr. Livingstone, who, if he hears in any way that such things lie there for him, it would probably influence his movements.

“P.S.—Mr. Brenner, the companion of the late Baron von der Decken, is just returned to Zanzibar from the River Dana, which he has ascended for a distance of between 100 and 200 miles from the sea. He describes the river as deep and navigable for small craft, and it flows through a rich country.

“HELEN KIRK.”

Hitherto Dr. Kirk, as the meeting was aware, had been an unbeliever in the existence of Livingstone, in consequence of the impression made upon his mind by the story of Moosa. It would be seen that he had now changed his opinion, and come round to the view which he (the President) had long ago expressed.

The other letter was to Mr. Webb from Dr. Kirk himself :—

“Zanzibar, Oct. 9, 1867.

“The interesting discovery that a white man had been seen seven months ago to the south of Lake Tanganyika, induced Mr. Churchill the Consul, and myself, to go to Bagamoyo, a place on the coast, the point of arrival and departure of the Ujiji caravans. The result of our visit has been to find two other men who also saw the wanderer in the interior, at Marungu, and to place his existence apparently beyond doubt. We have also learned something about his personal appearance, his escort, and the route he was taking, and have been told that letters were given to one of the head-men of another caravan that was at Marungu. This man, we have since been told, is a well-known man; so that on his arrival from the interior, expected in the course of a month, we may not only have our curiosity satisfied, but I sincerely hope our best wishes for our dear friend Livingstone realised. I hope we shall find that he has been successful, and is pushing his way to the Albert Nyanza, thence to emerge, *via* the Nile, on the Mediterranean. He will have been the first man

who has not only crossed the continent, but has passed through the whole length of Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to the mouth of the Nile. But the essential part of his work will have been done before he reaches the Nile, and he may safely return towards Zanzibar, if so minded, with laurels sufficient to constitute him the greatest of all explorers, and the African traveller *par excellence*. You see I am very sanguine that our friend is still alive. The manner in which we obtained the testimony was very satisfactory. In the first place, I picked up the news amongst the native traders. I then addressed the caravan people, and drew out their story while they were unsuspecting of its interest; so that neither Hurdee traders nor Suaheli men had an object to tell lies, nor any idea of how to act if they wished merely to please. Besides, our conversations were carried on without an interpreter, and, although making no pretence to a full knowledge of the language, I knew quite sufficient to be able to express myself, and dispense with that fertile source of confusion, an interpreter. I need not repeat all we heard; most of what is important will be published before this reaches England. With the prospect of letters from Livingstone so near, we may well refrain from all speculation on the subject of his geographical discoveries.

“J. KIRK.”

The President added that on the receipt of these letters he had written to Lord Stanley, who had informed him that no despatches from Zanzibar had reached the Foreign Office at present. He had no doubt before the next meeting of the Society all these despatches would be received. He was sure there could be very few persons who would not participate in the sanguine hopes he entertained that their dear friend, Dr. Livingstone, would not only return to them, but, as Dr. Kirk said, covered with the laurels which he would have so gloriously won.

Mr. JOHN CRAWFURD thought the information they had just received was somewhat more satisfactory than the former tidings. Still he confessed that he did not see in the information all the satisfaction that the President seemed to feel. He had a very high opinion of Dr. Kirk, and thought he was one of the best observers who had ever travelled in Africa; still, he must plainly say, that he was yet disposed to place considerable reliance on Moosa. There was one part of the information communicated on the former occasion on which he wished to make a remark, and that was the photograph which the native carrier was said to have recognised for Livingstone, out of several that were shown to him. Now he held it to be totally impossible for a native African, unaccustomed to pictorial representations, to pick out a particular portrait of a white man, dressed, as he represented, in European costume with a white cloth round his head.

The following Paper was then read:—

*Sketch of a Journey through the Interior of China, from Canton to Hankow.* By A. S. BICKMORE, Esq., M.A., Massachussetts.

THE author left Canton on the 7th August, 1866, with the intention of following a route proposed for a future railway to Hankow, *via* Quei-lin and the banks of the Siang affluent of the Yang-tse. Travelling up the Si-Kiang to Wu-chau, he ascended the Cassia River to Hingnan, and near that place found that this northern affluent of the Canton River was connected by an artificial canal with the great Siang River flowing northward into the Yang-tse. Being autumn,